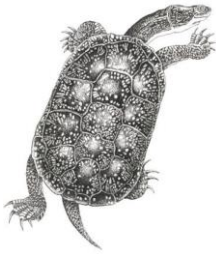


Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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Minutes of September 8, 2020

APPROVED

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Dick de Seve. Those present included Chairman Dick de Seve, Alternate Member Sue Hale-de Seve, Vice Chair Jennifer Baker, Member Stephen Hopkins, Member Ed Bernstine, Member Patrick Hackley, Member Paula Gilman, and Alt. Member Thomas Dombrowski along with the Conservation Commission Clerk Bre Daigneault. Members of the public included Tom Howe, David Knibbs, Richard Knibbs, and Ernie Gillan. Due to the COVID-19 emergency order, this meeting was held virtually by utilizing the *Zoom* platform.

A. Minutes of August 11, 2020 & August 20, 2020

Member Hackley made the motion to accept the minutes of August 11, 2020 as amended with two spelling errors. Vice Chair Baker seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**

Member Hackley made the motion to accept the minutes of August 20, 2020 as written. The motion was seconded by Member Bernstein. **Motion passed 4-0**

B. Correspondence/Announcements

- Admin. Daigneault received a complaint about tree cutting on Currier Hill Rd and the potential impact to wetlands on the property. The regional forest ranger had been contacted to review the cutting operation.

C. Conservation Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

- Chair de Seve and Member Bernstine walked the Cogswell trail. Chair de Seve believes they may have missed a back portion on of the easement. He will be double checking that area. They found the trail in good shape overall. Walking bridges onsite could be inspected and there were a few downed trees over the trails that would need to be removed or cut back.
- Chair de Seve would like the Thompson Town Forest to be monitored.
- Vice Chair Baker walked the back side of Meadow Pond. There were very few bugs and ticks. The area was clean and there was very little litter.
- The discussion of purchasing GPS units ensued. It was clarified the Commission had voted to spend up to \$500 for two units. A few suggestions for brands were made. Member Hopkins felt it would be important to have the Town properties mapped on the GPS, as well as be the ability to mark items that need attention. Members needed to research units further.

D. Wetlands/Shorelands/Biosolid/Intent-to-Cut/Forestry Notifications/Applications

- There were two intent to cuts Member Hackley will be reviewing.

E. Review of Invoices/Cost/Budget

- An invoice was received for the mowing and maintenance of the field located on map and lot 128-1 from Charles Townsend in the amount of \$595.
- Admin. Daigneault stated she had received correspondence from the town administrator that the 2021 budget worksheets should be completed by September 18th. Members agreed to hold a budget meeting prior to the 18th. Member Hopkins felt the new members should be orientated to the budget they do have. Time should be taken to look at items they would likely need, the NRI for example, and make a thoughtful submission for the funding. The costs for completing the NRI would be a high priority for the budget. The expenditures for Frisky Hill would also be needed. A date for the budget meeting would be scheduled.

F. Planning Board/Zoning Board Applications

Member Gilman inquired as to the discussion at the last Planning Board meeting regarding property owner Gary Anderson and the Planning Board's concern over wetlands. Admin. Daigneault clarified the lot he was requesting site plan approval was at the Belmont town line and had steep slope. The Planning Board had brought up another property of his on the corner of Rte. 106 and Allens Mill Rd. This lot had wetlands the PB was concerned with. The PB has since requested Mr. Anderson come back to discuss compliancy with approvals on this lot.

G. Complaints/Violations/Concerns

H. New Business

I. Old Business

- Frisky Hill- Chair opened the discussion of the Frisky Hill pull off. Vice Chair Baker requested all participants raise their hands when they have something to say to ensure an orderly meeting. Chair de Seve reiterated VC Baker's request. He would follow the list of raised hands and call in order. He recapped at the end of the last meeting, Alt. Member Dombrowski suggested an alternate spot for the pull off; located near the southern end of the property. The area appears to have potential to address everyone's concerns. Chair de Seve wanted everyone to understand, they had really taken everyone's concerns into consideration, trying to respect everyone's interest. The GLT has reviewed the site, as well. He requested Member Hackley to further the discussion with what has transpired since the last meeting. Member Hackley stated at this time he does not have any sketches or photographs to share, but he will attempt to describe it. The location is in the very southern-eastern corner of the lot, abutting the neighboring property line. There is an existing gravel ramp which has enough gravel for two perpendicular vehicles. The location is not in the center of the field being less obtrusive, there is already significant amount of fill, and the views are comparable to the original location. Member Hackley and Fuzz Freese, from the GLT, met at the location last week and measured out the parking pull off area. The ramp allows for a gentle grade down to the field. The area should have adequate room for two vehicles to pull in as well as room for the boulder and horizon sign. The siting distance is better both north and south for oncoming traffic. Member Hackley reiterated the location seems to address the concerns being: obtrusiveness is lessened, the siting distance is better, the view is comparable, there is enough gravel already there (would need blocks to help hold the fill), and the area would allow for sufficient room for vehicles to turn around without having to back into the road. Chair de Seve called on Mr. David Knibbs. Mr. Knibbs stated as abutters, they are still against a parking lot. He feels there is room by the white post to park two cars, as well as the horizon sign and placard. He feels the neighbors in that southern area do not need the headache across from them. Member Hopkins suggested Member Hackley put together a sketch of what he has described to visually show to abutters. He feels the CC has listened to the objections and made an effort to come up with a better solution. He feels they should be open to ideas. To allow for transparency, the ideas should be explained clearly. Member Gilman did not understand why other people did not have the drawing. She had received a drawing with a six page print out. Member Hackley explained that had come from Fuzz Freese and was a GLT adaptation of what was discussed with Member Hackley and Chair de Seve at the site. Member Hackley stated, the site still needs to have DOT approval. He understands this will not address all the concerns of all the stakeholders, but their responsibility as a commission is to represent the interest of the public as this is a public resource. They are responsible to provide the greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest period of time. The GCC is trying to consider the needs of everyone in town that has contributed to this conservation area that is emblematic of our town in the least obtrusive way to respect the wishes of the neighbors and anyone who feels strongly an intrusion into the esthetics of the area. He does not feel anyone on the GCC is locked into an exact plan, they have

worked with the GLT every step of the way and feels that a compromise can be reached. They would monitor the spot: plan, do, check, act: plan it, do it, check on it, and act on issues that may arise. Member Bernstine regarded "process". There should be an image (drawing), a budget figure, and a brief statement. He would like to see a process going forward, for not just this project, but going forward. Chair de Seve wanted to clarify Member Hackley's description of the site is much more limited than Fuzz Freese's sketch. The sketch shows a widening of the shoulder which DOT has made very clear, multiple times, that they would not approve that. He would like going forward, to have a clearer drawing together to have a more complete discussion of the site. Member Bernstine would still like to get together a procedure going forward: a sketch, a budget, and an impact statement. For example, how do we know going forward this would not have an impact on the hay field. Member Hackley would work with Fuzz (Freese) to update the sketch. At this point, they do not know the dimensions of the pull off or where a retaining-blocks may need to be placed, if at all. This is the third summer discussing the area and making adjustments. Once the location and design are set, it will still need to go out to bid. Alt. Member Dombrowski wanted to clarify, referencing Fuzz's drawing, that parking would be on the road as always. GLT Member Tom Howe explained that one of the changes would be to widen the existing shoulder within the Right of Way where two vehicles would have room to pull over. Another point, he understood Chair de Seve had spoken with Mr. Dan Sanborn who hays the field, and the GLT understood Mr. Sanborn does not use that ramp to access the field with the equipment. The GLT did not think it was important to preserve vehicular equipment access on that ramp. They felt the filled area was better used for the changes they have been discussing and not for vehicular entrance to the field. Chair de Seve asked if there were any other comments. There were none. He felt going forward, it would be best to get the new sketch together, attempt to overlay with the photographs, and get it out to as many people as possible before the next meeting. Members were in agreement. The next meeting would be October 13, 2020. Mr. Knibbs, Sr had one comment to add. Mr. Knibbs hopes the GCC will be responsible and accept any problems that might arise. Chair de Seve feels the GCC has always tried to be responsible and responsive and will continue to do so as they go through this process.

- Chair de Seve wanted to relay to members he had met with a roofer this past weekend to view the Twigg barn roof. One side of the roof is not in bad condition, the other side needs replacing. Chair believes the entire roof should be replaced. He is awaiting the quote on the replacement. Tom Howe strongly recommended removing the vegetation growing on the side of the Twigg barn, as this invites rot. Vice Chair Baker recommended contacting kids at the school that need community service.

J. Upcoming Dates-

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020.**

Adjournment

Member Gilman made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Vice Chair Baker. All in favor 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bre Daigneault, Conservation Admin.

Attested by: _____ on _____

Dick de Seve, Chair

Date